

In the Abstract:

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~The present invention has for an object an agent for dyeing hair which contains at least one vat dye reduced by a compound which in an alkaline medium forms an enediol, said agent having a pH of 4 to 11, as well as a method for dyeing hair by use of said agent at a physiologically tolerable pH followed by reoxidation of the vat dye[.]]~~

The agent for dyeing hair has a pH of 4 to 11 and contains a reduced vat dye, which is obtained by reducing a vat dye, such as an anthrquinonoid dye, with a reducing agent compound that forms an enediol in an alkaline medium, preferably acetoin, monohydroxyacetone, and dihydroxyacetone. The method of dyeing hair includes pre-reducing the vat dye with the reducing agent compound at a pH of from 10 to 13 to form the reduced vat dye, providing an agent for dyeing the hair having a pH of from 4 to 11 and containing the reduced vat dye, allowing the agent to act on the hair while protecting the reduced vat dye in the agent from atmospheric oxygen, and then re-oxidizing with atmospheric oxygen or an oxidant.